A/66/49 (Vol. II)

United Nations

Resolutions and Decisions
adopted by the General Assembly during its sixty-sixth session

Volume II
Decisions
13 September – 24 December 2011

General Assembly
Official Records • Sixty-sixth Session
Supplement No. 49

Please recycle

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United Nations • New York, 2012

NOTE

The resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly are identified as follows:

Regular sessions

Until the thirtieth regular session, the resolutions of the General Assembly were identified by an arabic numeral followed by a roman numeral in parentheses indicating the session (for example: resolution 3363 (XXX)). When several resolutions were adopted under the same number, each of them was identified by a capital letter placed between the two numerals (for example: resolution 3367 A (XXX), resolutions 3411 A and B (XXX), resolutions 3419 A to D (XXX)). The decisions were not numbered.

Since the thirty-first session, as part of the new system adopted for symbols of General Assembly documents, resolutions and decisions have been identified by an arabic numeral, indicating the session, followed by an oblique stroke and another arabic numeral (for example: resolution 31/1, decision 31/301). When several resolutions or decisions were adopted under the same number, each of them has been identified by a capital letter placed after the two numerals (for example: resolution 31/16 A, resolutions 31/6 A and B, decisions 31/406 A to E).

Special sessions

Until the seventh special session, the resolutions of the General Assembly were identified by an arabic numeral followed, in parentheses, by the letter "S" and a roman numeral indicating the session (for example: resolution 3362 (S-VII)). The decisions were not numbered.

Since the eighth special session, resolutions and decisions have been identified by the letter "S" and an arabic numeral indicating the session, followed by an oblique stroke and another arabic numeral (for example: resolution S-8/1, decision S-8/11).

Emergency special sessions

Until the fifth emergency special session, the resolutions of the General Assembly were identified by an arabic numeral followed, in parentheses, by the letters "ES" and a roman numeral indicating the session (for example: resolution 2252 (ES-V)). The decisions were not numbered.

Since the sixth emergency special session, resolutions and decisions have been identified by the letters "ES" and an arabic numeral indicating the session, followed by an oblique stroke and another arabic numeral (for example: resolution ES-6/1, decision ES-6/11).

In each of the series described above, the numbering follows the order of adoption.

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The present volume contains the decisions adopted by the General Assembly from 13 September to 24 December 2011. Resolutions adopted by the Assembly during that period appear in volume I, together with information on the allocation of agenda items. Resolutions and decisions adopted subsequently during the sixty-sixth session will be published in volume III.

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Contents

Decisions

Page

A. Elections and appointments 4

B. Other decisions 13

1. Decisions adopted without reference to a Main Committee 13

2. Decisions adopted on the reports of the First Committee 26

3. Decisions adopted on the reports of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) 28

4. Decisions adopted on the reports of the Second Committee 29

5. Decisions adopted on the reports of the Third Committee 33

6. Decisions adopted on the reports of the Fifth Committee 38

7. Decisions adopted on the reports of the Sixth Committee 39

Annex

Checklist of decisions 43

Contents

Decisions

Decision number	*Title*	*Page*
	A. Elections and appointments	
66/401.	Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee	4
66/402.	Election of five non-permanent members of the Security Council	4
66/403.	Election of eighteen members of the Economic and Social Council	4
66/404.	Election of five members of the International Court of Justice	5
66/405.	Appointment of members of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions	5
66/406.	Appointment of members of the Committee on Contributions	6
66/407.	Confirmation of the appointment of members of the Investments Committee	6
66/408.	Appointment of a member of the Board of Auditors	7
66/409.	Appointment of members of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee	7
66/410.	Appointment of members and alternate members of the United Nations Staff Pension Committee	8
66/411.	Election of twenty members of the Committee for Programme and Coordination	8
66/412.	Election of twenty-nine members of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme	8
66/413.	Election of the members of the International Law Commission	9
66/414.	Appointment of members of the Committee on Conferences	10
66/415.	Election of two members of the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission	11
66/416.	Election of judges of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals	11
66/417.	Appointment of members of the Joint Inspection Unit	12
	B. Other decisions	
	1. *Decisions adopted without reference to a Main Committee*	
66/501.	Meetings of subsidiary organs during the main part of the sixty-sixth session	13
66/502.	Organization of the sixty-sixth session	13
66/503.	Adoption of the agenda and allocation of agenda items	14
66/504.	High-level meeting of the General Assembly to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action	15
66/505.	Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization	15
66/506.	Documentation for the election of the members of the International Law Commission	15
66/507.	Report of the International Court of Justice	15
66/508.	Plenary meeting of the General Assembly devoted to the launch of the International Year of Cooperatives 2012	15
66/509.	Notification by the Secretary-General under Article 12, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations	15
66/510.	Report of the Security Council	15

Decision number	*Title*	*Page*
66/511.	Report of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994	16
66/512.	Report of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991	16
66/553.	Ad Hoc Working Group to further study and strengthen the smooth transition process for countries graduating from the least developed country category	16
66/557.	Agenda items remaining for consideration by the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session	22
	2. *Decisions adopted on the reports of the First Committee*	
66/513.	Verification in all its aspects, including the role of the United Nations in the field of verification	26
66/514.	Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security	26
66/515.	Role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament	26
66/516.	Missiles	27
66/517.	Transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities	27
66/518.	The arms trade treaty	27
66/519.	Proposed programme of work and timetable of the First Committee for 2012	27
66/520.	Programme planning (First Committee)	28
	3. *Decisions adopted on the reports of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)*	
66/521.	Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects	28
66/522.	Question of Gibraltar	28
66/523.	Proposed programme of work and timetable of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) for the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly	28
66/524.	Programme planning (Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee))	29
	4. *Decisions adopted on the reports of the Second Committee*	
66/542.	Macroeconomic policy questions	29
66/543.	Contribution of the ninth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development	29
66/544.	Arrangements for accreditation and participation in the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and its preparatory process of relevant non-governmental organizations and other major groups	29
66/545.	Groups of countries in special situations	30
66/546.	Report of the Secretary-General on the ten-year appraisal and review of the implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001–2010	30
66/547.	Eradication of poverty and other development issues	30
66/548.	Operational activities for development	31

Decision number	*Title*	*Page*
66/549.	Pérez-Guerrero Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation	31
66/550.	United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation	31
66/551.	Programme of work of the Second Committee for the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly	31
66/552.	Programme planning (Second Committee)	32
	5. Decisions adopted on the reports of the Third Committee	
66/531.	Reports considered by the General Assembly in connection with the question of social development	33
66/532.	Report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences	33
66/533.	Report of the Secretary-General on the observance of the International Day for the Right to the Truth concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims	33
66/534.	Reports considered by the General Assembly in connection with the question of the promotion and protection of the rights of children	33
66/535.	Reports considered by the General Assembly in connection with the question of the elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance	33
66/536.	Report of the Secretary-General on the right of peoples to self-determination	34
66/537.	Documents considered by the General Assembly in connection with the question of the promotion and protection of human rights	34
66/538.	Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action	36
66/539.	Documents considered by the General Assembly in connection with the question of crime prevention and criminal justice	36
66/540.	Programme of work of the Third Committee for the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly	36
66/541.	Programme planning (Third Committee)	37
	6. Decisions adopted on the reports of the Fifth Committee	
66/554.	United Nations Office for Partnerships	38
66/555.	Capital master plan	38
66/556.	Questions deferred for future consideration	38
	7. Decisions adopted on the reports of the Sixth Committee	
66/525.	Provisional programme of work of the Sixth Committee for the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly	39
66/526.	Programme planning (Sixth Committee)	40
66/527.	Observer status for the Cooperation Council of Turkic-speaking States in the General Assembly	40
66/528.	Observer status for United Cities and Local Governments in the General Assembly	41
66/529.	Observer status for the Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic-speaking Countries in the General Assembly	41
66/530.	Observer status for the International Conference of Asian Political Parties in the General Assembly	41

A. Elections and appointments

66/401. Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee

At its 1st plenary meeting, on 13 September 2011, the General Assembly, in accordance with rule 28 of its rules of procedure, appointed a Credentials Committee for its sixty-sixth session consisting of the following Member States: China, Costa Rica, Egypt, Italy, Maldives, Panama, Russian Federation, Senegal and United States of America.

66/402. Election of five non-permanent members of the Security Council

At its 37th and 40th plenary meetings, on 21 and 24 October 2011, the General Assembly, in accordance with Article 23 of the Charter of the United Nations and rule 142 of the rules of procedure of the Assembly, elected Azerbaijan, Guatemala, Morocco, Pakistan and Togo as non-permanent members of the Security Council for a two-year term of office beginning on 1 January 2012 to fill the vacancies occurring on the expiration of the terms of office of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Gabon, Lebanon and Nigeria.

As a result, the Security Council is composed of the following fifteen Member States: Azerbaijan,** China, Colombia,* France, Germany,* Guatemala,** India,* Morocco,** Pakistan,** Portugal,* Russian Federation, South Africa,* Togo,** United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America.

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* Term of office expires on 31 December 2012.

** Term of office expires on 31 December 2013.

66/403. Election of eighteen members of the Economic and Social Council

At its 39th plenary meeting, on 24 October 2011, the General Assembly, in accordance with rule 140 of the rules of procedure of the Assembly, elected Bulgaria, the Netherlands and Switzerland as members of the Economic and Social Council for the remainder of the terms of office of Hungary, Belgium and Norway,[1] respectively, beginning on 1 January 2012.

At the same meeting, the General Assembly, in accordance with Article 61 of the Charter of the United Nations and rule 145 of the rules of procedure of the Assembly, elected Belarus, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Ethiopia, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Japan, Lesotho, Libya, Nigeria, Spain and Turkey as members of the Economic and Social Council for a three-year term of office beginning on 1 January 2012 to fill the vacancies occurring on the expiration of the terms of office of Côte d'Ivoire, Estonia, France, Germany, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, India, Japan, Malta, Mauritius, Morocco, Namibia, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Switzerland and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

As a result, the Economic and Social Council is composed of the following fifty-four Member States: Argentina,* Australia,** Bahamas,* Bangladesh,* Belarus,*** Brazil,*** Bulgaria,** Burkina Faso,*** Cameroon,* Canada,* Chile,* China,** Comoros,* Cuba,*** Dominican Republic,*** Ecuador,** Egypt,* El Salvador,*** Ethiopia,*** Finland,** France,*** Gabon,** Germany,*** Ghana,* India,*** Indonesia,*** Iraq,* Ireland,*** Italy,* Japan,*** Latvia,** Lesotho,*** Libya,*** Malawi,** Mexico,** Mongolia,* Netherlands,* Nicaragua,** Nigeria,*** Pakistan,** Philippines,* Qatar,** Republic of Korea,** Russian Federation,**

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[1] See A/66/495 and A/66/496.

RWANDA,* SENEGAL,** SLOVAKIA,* SPAIN,*** SWITZERLAND,** TURKEY,*** UKRAINE,* UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND,** UNITED STATES OF AMERICA* and ZAMBIA.*

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* Term of office expires on 31 December 2012.

** Term of office expires on 31 December 2013.

*** Term of office expires on 31 December 2014.

66/404. Election of five members of the International Court of Justice

The General Assembly, at its 53rd plenary meeting, on 10 November 2011, and the Security Council, at its 6651st meeting, on the same date, proceeded independently of one another to elect, in accordance with Articles 2 to 4, 7 to 12 and 14 and 15 of the Statute of the International Court of Justice, rules 150 and 151 of the rules of procedure of the Assembly and rules 40 and 61 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Council, five members of the Court for a nine-year term of office beginning on 6 February 2012 to fill the vacancies occurring on the expiration of the terms of office of Mr. Abdul G. Koroma (Sierra Leone), Mr. Hisashi Owada (Japan), Mr. Bruno Simma (Germany), Mr. Peter Tomka (Slovakia) and Ms. Xue Hanqin (China).

Having obtained the required absolute majority of votes in both the General Assembly and the Security Council, Mr. Giorgio Gaja (Italy), Mr. Hisashi Owada (Japan), Mr. Peter Tomka (Slovakia) and Ms. Xue Hanqin (China) were elected as members of the Court for a nine-year term of office beginning on 6 February 2012.

The General Assembly, at its 84th plenary meeting, on 13 December 2011, and the Security Council, at its 6682nd meeting, on the same date, continued independently of one another to elect one member of the Court to fill the remaining vacancy.

Having obtained the required absolute majority of votes in both the General Assembly and the Security Council, Ms. Julia Sebutinde (Uganda) was elected as a member of the Court for a nine-year term of office beginning on 6 February 2012.

As a result, the International Court of Justice is composed as follows: Mr. Ronny ABRAHAM (*France*),** Mr. Awn Shawkat AL-KHASAWNEH (*Jordan*),** Mr. Mohamed BENNOUNA (*Morocco*),* Mr. Antônio Augusto CANÇADO TRINDADE (*Brazil*),** Ms. Joan E. DONOGHUE (*United States of America*),* Mr. Giorgio GAJA (*Italy*),*** Mr. Christopher GREENWOOD (*United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland*),** Mr. Kenneth KEITH (*New Zealand*),* Mr. Hisashi OWADA (*Japan*),*** Ms. Julia SEBUTINDE (*Uganda*)***, Mr. Bernardo SEPÚLVEDA AMOR (*Mexico*),* Mr. Leonid SKOTNIKOV (*Russian Federation*),* Mr. Peter TOMKA (*Slovakia*),*** Ms. XUE Hanqin (*China*)*** and Mr. Abdulqawi Ahmed YUSUF (*Somalia*).**

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* Term of office expires on 5 February 2015.

** Term of office expires on 5 February 2018.

*** Term of office expires on 5 February 2021.

66/405. Appointment of members of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

At its 58th plenary meeting, on 11 November 2011, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee,[2] appointed the following persons as members of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for a three-year term of office

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[2] A/66/539, para. 4.

beginning on 1 January 2012: Mr. Pavel Chernikov, Mr. Dietrich Lingenthal, Mr. Bruno Nunes Brant, Mr. Jean Christian Obame and Mr. David Traystman.

As a result, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions is composed as follows: Mr. Pavel CHERNIKOV (*Russian Federation*),*** Ms. Jasminka DINIĆ (*Croatia*),* Mr. Collen V. KELAPILE (*Botswana*),* Ms. Namgya C. KHAMPA (*India*),** Mr. Dietrich LINGENTHAL (*Germany*),*** Mr. Peter MADDENS (*Belgium*),** Mr. Richard MOON (*United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland*),** Mr. Stafford O. NEIL (*Jamaica*),* Mr. Bruno NUNES BRANT (*Brazil*),*** Mr. Jean Christian OBAME (*Gabon*),*** Mr. Carlos RUIZ MASSIEU (*Mexico*),** Mr. Akira SUGIYAMA (*Japan*),** Mr. Mohammad Mustafa TAL (*Jordan*),* Mr. David TRAYSTMAN (*United States of America*),*** Ms. Nonye UDO (*Nigeria*)* and Mr. ZHANG Wanhai (*China*).**

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* Term of office expires on 31 December 2012.

** Term of office expires on 31 December 2013.

*** Term of office expires on 31 December 2014.

66/406. Appointment of members of the Committee on Contributions

At its 58th plenary meeting, on 11 November 2011, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee,[3] appointed the following persons as members of the Committee on Contributions for a three-year term of office beginning on 1 January 2012: Ms. NneNne Iwuji-Eme, Mr. Nikolay Lozinskiy, Mr. Park Hae-yun, Ms. Gönke Roscher, Mr. Henrique da Silveira Sardinha Pinto and Mr. Sun Xudong.

As a result, the Committee on Contributions is composed as follows: Mr. Andrzej T. ABRASZEWSKI (*Poland*),* Mr. Joseph ACAKPO-SATCHIVI (*Benin*),** Mr. Meshal AL-MANSOUR (*Kuwait*),* Mr. Elmi Ahmed DUALE (*Somalia*),* Mr. Gordon ECKERSLEY (*Australia*),** Mr. Bernardo GREIVER DEL HOYO (*Uruguay*),** Mr. Ihor V. HUMENNY (*Ukraine*),* Ms. NneNne IWUJI-EME (*United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland*),*** Mr. Nikolay LOZINSKIY (*Russian Federation*),*** Mr. Juan Mbomio NDONG MANGUE (*Equatorial Guinea*),** Mr. PARK Hae-yun (*Republic of Korea*),*** Mr. Pedro Luis PEDROSO CUESTA (*Cuba*),** Ms. Gönke ROSCHER (*Germany*),*** Mr. Henrique da Silveira SARDINHA PINTO (*Brazil*),*** Mr. Thomas SCHLESINGER (*Austria*),** Ms. Lisa P. SPRATT (*United States of America*),* Mr. Shigeki SUMI (*Japan*)* and Mr. SUN Xudong (*China*).***

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* Term of office expires on 31 December 2012.

** Term of office expires on 31 December 2013.

*** Term of office expires on 31 December 2014.

66/407. Confirmation of the appointment of members of the Investments Committee

At its 58th plenary meeting, on 11 November 2011, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee,[4] confirmed the reappointment by the Secretary-General of Mr. Masakazu Arikawa, Mr. Madhav Dhar and Mr. Nemir A. Kirdar as members of the Investments Committee for a three-year term of office beginning on 1 January 2012 as well as the appointment of Ms. Dominique Senequier for a three-year term of office beginning on 1 January 2012.

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[3] A/66/540, para. 4.

[4] A/66/541, para. 5.

As a result, the Investments Committee is composed as follows: Mr. Masakazu ARIKAWA (*Japan*),*** Mr. Emilio J. CÁRDENAS (*Argentina*),* Mr. Madhav DHAR (*India*),*** Mr. Simon JIANG (*China*),** Mr. Achim KASSOW (*Germany*),** Mr. Nemir A. KIRDAR (*Iraq*),*** Mr. William J. MCDONOUGH (*United States of America*),** Ms. Linah K. MOHOHLO (*Botswana*)* and Ms. Dominique SENEQUIER (*France*).***

At the same meeting, the General Assembly, also on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee,[5] reappointed Ms. Hilda OCHOA-BRILLEMBOURG (*Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela*) and Mr. Ivan PICTET (*Switzerland*) as ad hoc members for a one-year term of office beginning on 1 January 2012.

* Term of office expires on 31 December 2012.

** Term of office expires on 31 December 2013.

*** Term of office expires on 31 December 2014.

66/408. Appointment of a member of the Board of Auditors

At its 58th plenary meeting, on 11 November 2011, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee,[6] appointed the Controller and Auditor-General of the UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA as a member of the Board of Auditors for a six-year term of office beginning on 1 July 2012.

As a result, the Board of Auditors is composed as follows: Auditor-General of the National Audit Office of CHINA,* Comptroller and Auditor-General of the National Audit Office of the UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND** and Controller and Auditor-General of the UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA.***

* Term of office expires on 30 June 2014.

** Term of office expires on 30 June 2016.

*** Term of office expires on 30 June 2018.

66/409. Appointment of members of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee

At its 58th plenary meeting, on 11 November 2011, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee,[7] appointed Mr. J. Christopher Mihm and Mr. John F. S. Muwanga as members of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee for a three-year term of office beginning on 1 January 2012.

As a result, the Independent Audit Advisory Committee is composed as follows: Mr. Vadim V. DUBINKIN (*Russian Federation*),* Mr. J. Christopher MIHM (*United States of America*),** Mr. John F. S. MUWANGA (*Uganda*),** Mr. Vinod RAI (*India*)* and Mr. Adrian Patrick STRACHAN (*Jamaica*).*

* Term of office expires on 31 December 2013.

** Term of office expires on 31 December 2014.

[5] Ibid., para. 6.

[6] A/66/542, para. 4.

[7] A/66/543, para. 4.

66/410. Appointment of members and alternate members of the United Nations Staff Pension Committee

At its 58th plenary meeting, on 11 November 2011, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee,[8] appointed Mr. Dmitry S. Chumakov as a member of the United Nations Staff Pension Committee for a term of office beginning on 11 November 2011 and ending on 31 December 2012, as a result of the resignation of Mr. Andrei V. Kovalenko.

As a result, the United Nations Staff Pension Committee is composed as follows: Mr. Dmitry S. CHUMAKOV (*Russian Federation*), Ms. Valeria María GONZÁLEZ POSSE (*Argentina*), Mr. Gerhard KÜNTZLE (*Germany*), Mr. Lovemore MAZEMO (*Zimbabwe*), Mr. Muhammad A. MUHITH (*Bangladesh*), Mr. Philip Richard Okanda OWADE (*Kenya*), Mr. Thomas A. REPASCH, Jr. (*United States of America*) and Mr. Jun YAMADA (*Japan*).

66/411. Election of twenty members of the Committee for Programme and Coordination

At its 59th plenary meeting, on 17 November 2011, the General Assembly, on the basis of nominations by the Economic and Social Council[9] and in accordance with the annex to Council resolution 2008 (LX) of 14 May 1976 and paragraph 1 of Council resolution 1987/94 of 4 December 1987, as well as Assembly decision 42/450 of 17 December 1987, elected ARGENTINA, BELARUS, BRAZIL, BULGARIA, CAMEROON, CUBA, GUINEA, GUINEA-BISSAU, IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF), ITALY, MALAYSIA, PAKISTAN, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, URUGUAY and ZIMBABWE as members of the Committee for Programme and Coordination for a three-year term of office beginning on 1 January 2012 to fill fifteen of the twenty vacancies occurring on the expiration of the terms of office of ARGENTINA, ARMENIA, BELARUS, BRAZIL, the CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC, CUBA, GUINEA, INDIA, IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF), ITALY, KAZAKHSTAN, NIGERIA, PAKISTAN, SOUTH AFRICA, SPAIN, UKRAINE and URUGUAY.[10]

As a result, the Committee for Programme and Coordination is composed of the following twenty-eight Member States:[11] ALGERIA,** ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA,** ARGENTINA,*** BELARUS,*** BENIN,** BRAZIL,*** BULGARIA,*** CAMEROON,*** CHINA,** COMOROS,* CUBA,*** ERITREA,** FRANCE,* GUINEA,*** GUINEA-BISSAU,*** HAITI,* IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF),*** ISRAEL,* ITALY,*** MALAYSIA,*** NAMIBIA,* PAKISTAN,*** REPUBLIC OF KOREA,** REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA,*** RUSSIAN FEDERATION,* URUGUAY,*** VENEZUELA (BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF)* and ZIMBABWE.***

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* Term of office expires on 31 December 2012.

** Term of office expires on 31 December 2013.

*** Term of office expires on 31 December 2014.

66/412. Election of twenty-nine members of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme

At its 59th plenary meeting, on 17 November 2011, the General Assembly, pursuant to its decision 43/406 of 24 October 1988, elected ALBANIA, BANGLADESH, CHILE, COLOMBIA, the CONGO, CUBA, ECUADOR, EGYPT, GEORGIA, INDIA, IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF), ISRAEL, ITALY,

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[8] A/66/544, para. 4.

[9] See A/66/316/Rev.1; see also Economic and Social Council decisions 2011/201 B and D.

[10] As indicated in A/65/291/Add.1, three vacancies remain to be filled for members from Western European and other States for a term of office beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 2011.

[11] As indicated in A/66/316/Rev.1, one vacancy remains to be filled for a member from Asia-Pacific States for a term of office beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 2013. Also, one vacancy for a member from Asia-Pacific States and four vacancies for members from Western European and other States remain to be filled for a term of office beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 2014.

Liberia, Mauritius, Mexico, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Poland, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Spain, the Sudan, Thailand, Togo and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland as members of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme for a four-year term of office beginning on 1 January 2012 to fill the vacancies occurring on the expiration of the terms of office of the Bahamas, Bangladesh, Belarus, Benin, Colombia, the Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Fiji, Finland, Guinea, Hungary, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Mali, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, the Netherlands, the Niger, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Somalia, Spain, Tunisia and Tuvalu.

At its 83rd plenary meeting, on 12 December 2011, the General Assembly, pursuant to its decision 43/406, elected Fiji as a member of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme for a four-year term of office beginning on 1 January 2012.

As a result, the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme is composed of the following fifty-seven members:[12] Albania,** Antigua and Barbuda,* Argentina,* Australia,* Bangladesh,** Belgium,* Brazil,* Canada,* Central African Republic,* Chile,** China,* Colombia,** Congo,** Cuba,** Czech Republic,* Ecuador,** Egypt,** Fiji,** France,* Gabon,* Georgia,** Germany,* India,** Indonesia,* Iran (Islamic Republic of),** Israel,** Italy,** Japan,* Kenya,* Lesotho,* Liberia,** Malaysia,* Mauritania,* Mauritius,** Mexico,** Mozambique,* Netherlands,** Nigeria,** Norway,** Pakistan,* Poland,** Republic of Korea,* Romania,* Russian Federation,* Saudi Arabia,** Senegal,** Spain,** Sudan,** Switzerland,* Thailand,** Togo,** Trinidad and Tobago,* United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland,** United Republic of Tanzania,* United States of America,* Uruguay* and Zambia.*

* Term of office expires on 31 December 2013.

** Term of office expires on 31 December 2015.

66/413. Election of the members of the International Law Commission

At its 59th plenary meeting, on 17 November 2011, the General Assembly, in accordance with its resolution 174 (II) of 21 November 1947 and the provisions of the statute of the International Law Commission annexed to that resolution, as amended by Assembly resolutions 1103 (XI) of 18 December 1956, 1647 (XVI) of 6 November 1961 and 36/39 of 18 November 1981, elected the following thirty-four persons as members of the Commission for a five-year term of office beginning on 1 January 2012:[13]

Mr. Mohammed Bello Adoke (Nigeria)
Mr. Ali Mohsen Fetais Al-Marri (Qatar)
Mr. Lucius Caflisch (Switzerland)
Mr. Enrique J. A. Candioti (Argentina)
Mr. Pedro Comissário Afonso (Mozambique)
Mr. Abdelrazeg El-Murtadi Suleiman Gouider (Libya)
Ms. Concepción Escobar Hernández (Spain)
Mr. Mathias Forteau (France)
Mr. Kirill Gevorgian (Russian Federation)
Mr. Juan Manuel Gómez-Robledo (Mexico)
Mr. Hussein A. Hassouna (Egypt)

[12] One vacancy remains to be filled for a member from Asia-Pacific States for a term of office beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 2015.

[13] See A/66/88 and Add.1–3, A/66/514 and A/66/90 and Add.1 and 2.

Mr. Mahmoud D. HMOUD (Jordan)
Mr. HUANG Huikang (China)
Ms. Marie G. JACOBSSON (Sweden)
Mr. Maurice KAMTO (Cameroon)
Mr. Kriangsak KITTICHAISAREE (Thailand)
Mr. Ahmed LARABA (Algeria)
Mr. Donald M. MCRAE (Canada)
Mr. Shinya MURASE (Japan)
Mr. Sean D. MURPHY (United States of America)
Mr. Bernd H. NIEHAUS (Costa Rica)
Mr. Georg NOLTE (Germany)
Mr. Ki Gab PARK (Republic of Korea)
Mr. Chris M. PETER (United Republic of Tanzania)
Mr. Ernest PETRIČ (Slovenia)
Mr. Gilberto Vergne SABOIA (Brazil)
Mr. Narinder SINGH (India)
Mr. Pavel ŠTURMA (Czech Republic)
Mr. Dire D. TLADI (South Africa)
Mr. Eduardo VALENCIA-OSPINA (Colombia)
Mr. Stephen C. VASCIANNIE (Jamaica)
Mr. Amos S. WAKO (Kenya)
Mr. Nugroho WISNUMURTI (Indonesia)
Mr. Michael WOOD (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)

66/414. Appointment of members of the Committee on Conferences

At its 63rd plenary meeting, on 22 November 2011, the General Assembly, in accordance with paragraph 2 of its resolution 43/222 B of 21 December 1988, took note of the appointment by its President, after consultations with the Chairs of the regional groups concerned, of the CONGO, FRANCE, NAMIBIA and the RUSSIAN FEDERATION as members of the Committee on Conferences for a three-year term of office beginning on 1 January 2012, to fill four of the seven vacancies occurring on the expiration of the terms of office of the CONGO, FRANCE, MALAYSIA, MEXICO, MOZAMBIQUE, the PHILIPPINES and the RUSSIAN FEDERATION.

At its 83rd plenary meeting, on 12 December 2011, the General Assembly, in accordance with paragraph 2 of its resolution 43/222 B, took note of the appointment by its President, after consultations with the Chair of the regional group concerned, of the PHILIPPINES as a member of the Committee on Conferences for a three-year term of office beginning on 1 January 2012.

As a result, the Committee on Conferences is composed of the following eighteen Member States:[14] AUSTRIA,** CHINA,** CONGO,*** CÔTE D'IVOIRE,* ETHIOPIA,** FRANCE,*** GERMANY,* JAPAN,** LIBYA,** NAMIBIA,*** NIGERIA,* PANAMA,* PHILIPPINES,*** REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA,* RUSSIAN FEDERATION,*** SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC,* UNITED STATES OF AMERICA** and VENEZUELA (BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF).*

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* Term of office expires on 31 December 2012.

** Term of office expires on 31 December 2013.

*** Term of office expires on 31 December 2014.

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[14] As indicated in A/66/107/Rev.1, one vacancy remains to be filled for a member from Latin American and Caribbean States for a term of office beginning on the date of appointment and expiring on 31 December 2013. Also, one vacancy for a member from Asia-Pacific States and one vacancy for a member from Latin American and Caribbean States remain to be filled for a term of office beginning on the date of appointment and expiring on 31 December 2014.

66/415. Election of two members of the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission

At its 83rd plenary meeting, on 12 December 2011, the General Assembly, pursuant to its resolutions 60/180 of 20 December 2005 and 63/145 of 18 December 2008, elected CROATIA and EL SALVADOR as members of the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission for a two-year term of office, beginning on 1 January 2012, to fill the vacancies occurring on the expiration of the terms of office of the CZECH REPUBLIC and PERU.

Pursuant to paragraphs 4 (*a*) to (*d*) of resolution 60/180, twenty-four States have already been elected and/or selected as members of the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission: CHINA, COLOMBIA, FRANCE, MOROCCO, RUSSIAN FEDERATION, UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND and UNITED STATES OF AMERICA selected by the Security Council;[15] CHILE, EGYPT, REPUBLIC OF KOREA, RWANDA, SPAIN, UKRAINE and ZAMBIA elected by the Economic and Social Council;[16] CANADA, JAPAN, NETHERLANDS, NORWAY and SWEDEN selected by and from among the top ten providers of assessed contributions to United Nations budgets and of voluntary contributions to United Nations funds, programmes and agencies, including a standing peacebuilding fund;[17] and BANGLADESH, INDIA, NEPAL, NIGERIA and PAKISTAN selected by and from among the top ten providers of military personnel and civilian police to United Nations missions.[18]

As a result, beginning on 1 January 2012, the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission is composed of the following thirty-one Member States: BANGLADESH,** BENIN,** BRAZIL,** CANADA,** CHILE,** CHINA,* COLOMBIA,** CROATIA,*** EGYPT,** EL SALVADOR,*** FRANCE,* INDIA,** INDONESIA,** JAPAN,** MOROCCO,** NEPAL,** NETHERLANDS,** NIGERIA,** NORWAY,** PAKISTAN,** REPUBLIC OF KOREA,** RUSSIAN FEDERATION,* RWANDA,** SPAIN,** SWEDEN,** TUNISIA,** UKRAINE,** UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND,* UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,* URUGUAY** and ZAMBIA.**

* Permanent members of the Security Council.

** Term of office expires on 31 December 2012.

*** Term of office expires on 31 December 2013.

66/416. Election of judges of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals

At its 87th plenary meeting, on 20 December 2011, the General Assembly, pursuant to article 10 of the statute of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals, elected the following twenty-five judges for a four-year term of office beginning on 1 July 2012:[19]

Mr. Carmel A. AGIUS (Malta)
Mr. Aydin Sefa AKAY (Turkey)
Mr. Jean-Claude ANTONETTI (France)
Ms. Florence Rita ARREY (Cameroon)
Ms. Solomy Balungi BOSSA (Uganda)
Mr. José Ricardo DE PRADA SOLAESA (Spain)
Mr. Ben EMMERSON (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)
Mr. Christoph FLÖGGE (Germany)

[15] See S/2012/103.

[16] See Economic and Social Council decision 2011/201 E.

[17] See A/65/635.

[18] See A/65/636.

[19] A/66/564, A/66/571/Rev.1 and A/66/572.

Ms. Graciela Susana GATTI SANTANA (Uruguay)
Mr. Burton HALL (Bahamas)
Mr. Vagn JOENSEN (Denmark)
Mr. Gberdao Gustave KAM (Burkina Faso)
Mr. LIU Daqun (China)
Mr. Joseph E. Chiondo MASANCHE (United Republic of Tanzania)
Mr. Theodor MERON (United States of America)
Mr. Bakone Melema MOLOTO (South Africa)
Mr. Lee Gacuiga MUTHOGA (Kenya)
Ms. Aminatta Lois Runeni N'GUM (Zimbabwe/Gambia)
Ms. Prisca Matimba NYAMBE (Zambia)
Mr. Alphonsus Martinus Maria ORIE (Netherlands)
Mr. Seon Ki PARK (Republic of Korea)
Mr. Mparany Mamy Richard RAJOHNSON (Madagascar)
Mr. Patrick Lipton ROBINSON (Jamaica)
Mr. Ivo Nelson de Caires Batista ROSA (Portugal)
Mr. William H. SEKULE (United Republic of Tanzania)

66/417. Appointment of members of the Joint Inspection Unit

At its 92nd plenary meeting, on 23 December 2011, the General Assembly, pursuant to article 3, paragraph 2, of the statute of the Joint Inspection Unit, contained in the annex to resolution 31/192 of 22 December 1976, appointed Mr. Jorge Flores Callejas as a member of the Joint Inspection Unit for a five-year term of office beginning on 1 January 2012 and expiring on 31 December 2016, to fill the vacancy occurring as a result of the resignation of Mr. Enrique Román-Morey.[20]

As a result, the Joint Inspection Unit is composed as follows: Mr. Gérard BIRAUD (*France*),*** Mr. Nicolay V. CHULKOV (*Russian Federation*),* Mr. Papa Louis FALL (*Senegal*),*** Mr. Jorge FLORES CALLEJAS (*Honduras*),**** Mr. Even Francisco FONTAINE ORTIZ (*Cuba*),* Mr. Tadanori INOMATA (*Japan*),** Mr. Mohamed MOUNIR-ZAHRAN (*Egypt*),* Mr. István POSTA (*Hungary*),*** Mr. Cihan TERZI (*Turkey*),*** Ms. Deborah WYNES (*United States of America*)* and Mr. ZHANG Yishan (*China*).*

* Term of office expires on 31 December 2012.

** Term of office expires on 31 December 2014.

*** Term of office expires on 31 December 2015.

**** Term of office expires on 31 December 2016.

[20] See A/66/621. At its 47th plenary meeting, on 1 November 2011, the General Assembly had decided to fill the vacancy occurring as a result of the resignation of Mr. Román-Morey for a term of office beginning on 1 January 2012 and expiring on 31 December 2016 (see A/66/509 and Corr.1).

B. Other decisions

1. *Decisions adopted without reference to a Main Committee*

66/501. Meetings of subsidiary organs during the main part of the sixty-sixth session

At its 1st plenary meeting, on 13 September 2011, the General Assembly decided to authorize those subsidiary organs of the Assembly listed in the letter dated 6 September 2011 from the Chair of the Committee on Conferences,[21] namely the Committee on Relations with the Host Country, the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Disarmament Commission, the Executive Board of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, the Independent Audit Advisory Committee, the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, the second intersessional meeting of the preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund, to meet during the main part of the sixty-sixth session of the Assembly.

66/502. Organization of the sixty-sixth session

At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 16 September 2011, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee as set forth in its first report,[22] adopted a number of provisions concerning the organization of the sixty-sixth session.

At its 52nd plenary meeting, on 9 November 2011, the General Assembly, at the request of the Chair of the Sixth Committee, decided to extend the work of the Committee until Friday, 11 November 2011.

At its 63rd plenary meeting, on 22 November 2011, the General Assembly, at the request of the Chair of the Second Committee, decided to extend the work of the Committee until Friday, 2 December 2011.

At its 72nd plenary meeting, on 2 December 2011, the General Assembly, at the request of the Chair of the Second Committee, decided to extend the work of the Committee until Friday, 9 December 2011.

At its 82nd plenary meeting, on 9 December 2011, the General Assembly, at the request of the Chair of the Fifth Committee, decided to extend the work of the Committee until Thursday, 22 December 2011.

At its 83rd plenary meeting, on 12 December 2011, the General Assembly, on the proposal of its President, decided to postpone the date of recess of the sixty-sixth session of the Assembly from Tuesday, 13 December 2011, to Thursday, 22 December 2011.

At its 91st plenary meeting, on 22 December 2011, the General Assembly, at the request of the Chair of the Fifth Committee, decided to extend the work of the Committee until Friday, 23 December 2011.

At the same meeting, the General Assembly, on the proposal of its President, decided to postpone the date of recess of the sixty-sixth session of the Assembly from Thursday, 22 December 2011, to Friday, 23 December 2011.

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[21] A/66/346.

[22] A/66/250, paras. 3–46.

66/503. Adoption of the agenda and allocation of agenda items

At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 16 September 2011, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee as set forth in its first report,[23] adopted the agenda[24] and the allocation of agenda items[25] for the sixty-sixth session.

At the same meeting, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee as set forth in its first report,[26] decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-sixth session the item entitled "Question of the Comorian island of Mayotte", under heading B (Maintenance of international peace and security), on the understanding that there would be no consideration of this item by the Assembly.

Also at the same meeting, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee as set forth in its first report,[27] decided to defer consideration of the item entitled "Question of the Malagasy islands of Glorieuses, Juan de Nova, Europa and Bassas da India" and to include it in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session.

At its 35th plenary meeting, on 17 October 2011, the General Assembly, on the proposal of the Secretary-General,[28] having waived the relevant provisions of rule 40 of its rules of procedure, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-sixth session an additional sub-item entitled "Appointment of members and alternate members of the United Nations Staff Pension Committee", as sub-item (*k*) of agenda item 115, under heading I (Organizational, administrative and other matters), and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

At its 52nd plenary meeting, on 9 November 2011, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee as set forth in its second report,[29] decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-sixth session an additional item entitled "Observer status for the West African Economic and Monetary Union in the General Assembly", under heading I (Organizational, administrative and other matters), and to allocate it to the Sixth Committee.

At the same meeting, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee as set forth in its second report,[30] decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-sixth session, an additional sub-item entitled "Appointment of members of the International Civil Service Commission", as sub-item (*l*) of agenda item 115, under heading I (Organizational, administrative and other matters), and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

At its 91st plenary meeting, on 22 December 2011, the General Assembly decided to consider directly in plenary meeting sub-item (*a*) of agenda item 22 entitled "Follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries", under heading A (Promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development in accordance with the resolutions of the General Assembly and recent United Nations conferences), and proceed expeditiously with its consideration of a draft decision.[31]

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[23] Ibid., paras. 72–82.

[24] A/66/251.

[25] A/66/252.

[26] A/66/250, para. 55.

[27] Ibid., para. 56.

[28] A/66/231.

[29] A/66/250/Add.1, para. 1.

[30] Ibid., para. 2.

[31] A/66/L.30.

66/504. High-level meeting of the General Assembly to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

At its 14th plenary meeting, on 22 September 2011, the General Assembly, recalling that, in its resolution 65/279 of 13 June 2011, the Assembly had decided that the draft political declaration would be adopted at the closing plenary meeting of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, decided instead to adopt the political declaration at the opening plenary meeting.

66/505. Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization

At its 31st plenary meeting, on 4 October 2011, the General Assembly took note of the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization.[32]

66/506. Documentation for the election of the members of the International Law Commission

At its 35th plenary meeting, on 17 October 2011, the General Assembly decided to request the Secretary-General to issue a consolidated list of candidates for the election of the members of the International Law Commission, scheduled for 17 November 2011, incorporating new information provided subsequent to the deadline of 1 June 2011 for the submission of candidatures.[33]

66/507. Report of the International Court of Justice

At its 43rd plenary meeting, on 26 October 2011, the General Assembly took note of the report of the International Court of Justice.[34]

66/508. Plenary meeting of the General Assembly devoted to the launch of the International Year of Cooperatives 2012

At its 45th plenary meeting, on 31 October 2011, the General Assembly, on the proposal of its President, decided to invite Mr. Gordon Brown, former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, to make a statement at that meeting.

66/509. Notification by the Secretary-General under Article 12, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations

At its 50th plenary meeting, on 8 November 2011, the General Assembly took note of the note by the Secretary-General.[35]

66/510. Report of the Security Council

At its 50th plenary meeting, on 8 November 2011, the General Assembly took note of the report of the Security Council.[36]

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[32] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 1* (A/66/1).

[33] See A/66/514.

[34] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 4* (A/66/4).

[35] A/66/300.

[36] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 2* (A/66/2).

66/511. Report of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994

At its 58th plenary meeting, on 11 November 2011, the General Assembly took note of the sixteenth annual report of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994.[37]

66/512. Report of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991

At its 58th plenary meeting, on 11 November 2011, the General Assembly took note of the eighteenth annual report of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991.[38]

66/553. Ad Hoc Working Group to further study and strengthen the smooth transition process for countries graduating from the least developed country category

At its 91st plenary meeting, on 22 December 2011, the General Assembly, on the proposal of its President,[39] as orally revised, recalling its resolutions 65/280 of 17 June 2011, 65/286 of 29 June 2011 and 66/213 of 22 December 2011, adopted the terms of reference of the Ad Hoc Working Group to further study and strengthen the smooth transition process for countries graduating from the least developed country category annexed to the present decision.

Annex

Terms of reference of the Ad Hoc Working Group to further study and strengthen the smooth transition process for countries graduating from the least developed country category

Background

At the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 9 to 13 May 2011, Member States adopted the Istanbul Declaration[40] and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020.[41] As set out in the Programme of Action, the overarching goal of the Programme of Action is to overcome the structural challenges faced by the least developed countries in order to eradicate poverty, achieve internationally agreed development goals and enable graduation from the least developed country category.[42] The Programme of Action also sets the ambitious objective of enabling half the number of least developed countries to meet the criteria for graduation by 2020.[43]

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[37] See A/66/209-S/2011/472.

[38] See A/66/210-S/2011/473.

[39] A/66/L.30.

[40] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9–13 May 2011* (A/CONF.219/7), chap. I.

[41] Ibid., chap. II.

[42] Ibid., sect. III, para. 27.

[43] Ibid., para. 28.

The Programme of Action is based on commitments, standards of accountability and partnerships established by least developed countries and their development partners with the aim of pursuing or taking action towards the fulfilment of the above-mentioned objective. This implies supportive and integrated policies in a wide range of relevant economic, social and environmental areas. The Programme of Action is the first global programme of action for the least developed countries containing an entire section on graduation and smooth transition,[44] in addition to a specific objective regarding graduation prospects.[43]

The category of least developed countries was established in 1971 by the General Assembly. Since that time, the eligibility criteria for the least developed countries (gross national income per capita, a human assets index and an economic vulnerability index) have been periodically refined by the Committee for Development Policy of the Economic and Social Council. The indicators used to assess the criteria used to identify the countries that belong to the category of least developed countries measure long-term structural weaknesses. The selected indicators are sufficiently stable over time to minimize the likelihood that a country will change its status from least developed country to non-least developed country and vice versa owing to dramatic fluctuations in any single criterion.

After graduation rules were established in 1991, additional principles were adopted to ensure that graduation would take place only after a country's development prospects had improved significantly and that the country would be able to remain on that development path. There is, therefore, an intentional asymmetry between the inclusion and graduation criteria, which can be summarized as follows (based on the *Handbook on the Least Developed Country Category: Inclusion, Graduation and Special Support Measures*):[45]

(*a*) Thresholds for graduation are higher than those for inclusion;

(*b*) In order to be eligible for graduation, a country must cease to meet not just one, but two of the three inclusion criteria;[46]

(*c*) Eligibility for inclusion is ascertained once, whereas eligibility for graduation has to be observed over two consecutive triennial reviews;

(*d*) Inclusion requires approval from the country concerned, whereas graduation does not.

The main benefits received by least developed countries

Special support measures for least developed countries are implemented in different ways by the various development partners, including bilateral donors and multilateral organizations.

Official development assistance

Support measures in the area of bilateral development financing, technical cooperation and other forms of assistance usually involve voluntary commitments by donor countries. As at 2009, the target of providing 0.15 per cent of the gross national income as official development assistance to least developed countries as a group had been met by only nine donors of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and the higher threshold of 0.2 per cent had been met by only seven donors. On average, the members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development provided 0.10 per cent of their gross national income to least developed countries in 2009, an increase from the 0.05 per cent they had provided in 1999. However, there are no targets for individual countries.

[44] Ibid., sect. VI.

[45] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.07.II.A.9.

[46] If the criteria were applied symmetrically, ceasing to meet a single criterion would be enough for a country to be considered eligible for graduation.

Market access

Least developed country exports benefit from a number of preferential trading schemes, including the European Union "Everything but arms" initiative, which provides duty-free and quota-free market access to all products from all least developed countries. The European Union has also recently established more favourable rules of origin for least developed countries than for other developing countries. Most other developed countries also accord preferential treatment to products originating from the least developed countries, but not for all products. Other initiatives include the African Growth and Opportunity Act of the United States of America, for most African countries. In addition, a number of developing countries, including Brazil, China, India and Turkey, have started to provide preferential treatment for products from the least developed countries.

Special and differential treatment with respect to World Trade Organization obligations

Least developed countries that are members of the World Trade Organization may benefit from special treatment with respect to World Trade Organization obligations safeguarding the interests of the least developed countries, including through increased flexibility for the least developed countries in rules and disciplines governing trade measures, the granting of longer transitional periods to the least developed countries and the provision of technical assistance. The least developed countries should also benefit from differential treatment with respect to accession to the World Trade Organization.

Support measures related to capacity-building

The Enhanced Integrated Framework was designed to assist the least developed countries in developing the necessary capacities in the area of trade, including by improving their supply response to trade opportunities and becoming better integrated into the multilateral trading system. Various United Nations departments and agencies organize capacity-building activities for the least developed countries.

Specific measures by the United Nations system

Several organizations of the United Nations system pay particular attention to the development challenges of the least developed countries through specifically targeted technical cooperation programmes or by earmarking a portion of their budgets for the least developed countries. That portion has increased over the past decade, with a number of agencies allocating more than half of their expenditures to programmes in least developed countries. Thus, five least developed countries are among the top ten recipients of United Nations development support.[47]

In addition, the United Nations provides financial support for the participation of representatives of the least developed countries in the annual sessions of the General Assembly. Likewise, a number of United Nations organizations and conventions have established voluntary financial mechanisms to fund the participation of representatives of the least developed countries in their processes. Furthermore, least developed country contributions to the regular budget of the United Nations are capped at 0.01 per cent of the total United Nations budget.[48]

The appraisal of these support measures before and during the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries has led to the conclusion that, while support measures have increased in various areas, their impact on socioeconomic development in least developed countries has been limited and varies considerably by country. Thus, the implications of

[47] See A/66/79-E/2011/107.

[48] This cap is applied regardless of the national income or other factors determining a Member State's assessment rate. A minimum contribution of 0.001 per cent of the total United Nations budget is, however, required. Every least developed country is also entitled to a discount of 90 per cent on its contributions to peacekeeping operations.

losing access to least developed country–specific support measures after graduation need to be assessed for each country.

The graduation process

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 59/209 of 20 December 2004, the process by which a least developed country actually graduates from the list takes at least six years. With regard to meeting the criteria for graduation, each least developed country is considered by the Committee for Development Policy in its triennial reviews. Only after a country has been found eligible for graduation in two consecutive reviews may the Committee recommend the country for graduation in its report to the Economic and Social Council. After a country has met the criteria for graduation for the first time, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development prepares a vulnerability profile and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat prepares an ex ante impact assessment report on that country.

A country is recommended for graduation only after a second review has been held and after two consecutive reports on that country indicate that its development prospects are sustainable. Then, the Economic and Social Council takes action on the recommendation of the Committee for Development Policy at its next substantive session and transmits its decision to the General Assembly, which takes note of the recommendation. A country graduates from the list of least developed countries three years after the Assembly has taken note of the recommendation of the Committee. During that three-year period, the country remains on the list of least developed countries and continues to benefit from the advantages associated with being on that list. The smooth transition period only starts after actual graduation.

Graduation from the list of least developed countries is a major milestone for the country involved, as it means that significant progress has been made towards reaching at least some of its development goals, as reflected in increased per capita income and human capacities and reduced economic vulnerability. Over the past four decades, only three countries have graduated from the list, namely Botswana (1994), Cape Verde (2007) and Maldives (2011). Samoa has been recommended for graduation and is expected to graduate from the category in 2014.[49]

While graduated countries lose access to the specific support measures for the least developed countries, graduation comes with new opportunities. Graduated countries continue to have access to general support measures aimed at helping developing countries to make progress in achieving sustainable development and the Millennium Development Goals, for example. In addition, middle-income country status means having better access to international capital markets. Moreover, such status is associated with a more favourable perception of the business environment, which is conducive to increased private investment, particularly foreign direct investment. Relatively large graduated countries could provide a gateway for investment in neighbouring countries and thus act as catalysts for growth, employment creation and poverty reduction in a whole region.

Existing provisions for the smooth transition strategy for countries graduating from the list of least developed countries

To ensure that graduation from the list of least developed countries does not result in a disruption of development plans, programmes and projects, the General Assembly, in its resolution 59/209, re-emphasized the need for a smooth transition for graduating countries and outlined the process to ensure a smooth transition. It recommended that the Government of the graduating country establish, in cooperation with its bilateral and multilateral development and trading partners, a consultative mechanism to facilitate the preparation of the transition strategy and the identification of associated actions. The United Nations Conference on Trade and

[49] Equatorial Guinea has also been recommended for graduation but the General Assembly has not yet taken note of the endorsement by the Economic and Social Council.

Development has been supporting graduating countries in the formulation and adoption of a smooth transition strategy by analysing, on a sector-by-sector or product-by-product basis, the extent to which the retention of least developed country treatment is vital for the continuation of development progress.

Also in resolution 59/209, the General Assembly invited the graduated country to closely monitor, with the support of the consultative mechanism, the implementation of the transition strategy and to keep the Secretary-General informed on a regular basis. It urged development partners to support the implementation of the transition strategy and to avoid any abrupt reductions in the assistance provided to the country. The Assembly invited trading partners to consider extending trade preferences or to reduce them in a phased manner. It invited all World Trade Organization members to consider extending to a graduated country, as appropriate, the existing special and differential treatment and exemptions available to the least developed countries for a period appropriate to the development situation.

In accordance with General Assembly resolutions 59/209 and 65/286 of 29 June 2011, the Committee for Development Policy monitors the development progress of graduated countries as a complement to its triennial review of the list of least developed countries. At the upcoming triennial review, in 2012, and as a follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, the Committee is also expected to undertake a review and assessment of the current practices and provisions associated with the smooth transition process so as to identify and propose possible concrete actions to further strengthen existing mechanisms.

Recently graduated countries have expressed concern about the fact that the existing smooth transition strategy has not been working well in practice because there is no common understanding of what it implies and it is not clear who is responsible for it. Furthermore, the strategy lacks any concrete legislative mandate or guidelines for development partners to continue providing support, including development assistance, to a graduated country. At the moment, the responsibility for negotiating with development partners to ensure that least developed country benefits and privileges are not abruptly discontinued rests with the graduated country. Graduated countries have also expressed frustration about the fact that they have received little support from the United Nations or other international organizations in terms of capacity-building, advice or other important and concrete issues.

While expressing their appreciation to development partners for the extension of some least developed country benefits, graduated countries also expressed concern about the fact that these measures were taken in an ad hoc rather than a systematic manner and that the benefits were not granted by all partners.

Furthermore, since the Programme of Action set the ambitious goal of enabling half of the least developed countries to meet the criteria for graduation by 2020, the smooth transition strategy needs to be strengthened in such a way as to assure graduating countries that they will not abruptly be deprived of all the benefits they were entitled to as least developed countries.

Many least developed countries and their development partners feel strongly, therefore, that the existing process should be strengthened so that future graduating countries will not face the immense challenges and uncertainties that recently graduated countries have faced. It is also important to clarify what graduation implies precisely and who is responsible for what.

At a side event to the meetings of the Second Committee held during the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly on enhanced international support and the smooth transition of least developed countries towards graduation, which was organized by the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, concrete smooth transition measures that have been granted to graduated countries were discussed. These measures include the extension by the European Union of duty-free and quota-free market access through the "Everything but arms" initiative for three additional years after graduation. Likewise, the Board of the Enhanced Integrated Framework has decided to extend access to the Framework to graduated countries by three years. The Board might consider extending such initiatives for a longer period on a case-by-case basis. In June

2011, the General Assembly, in paragraph 4 of its resolution 65/286, decided to extend travel-related support, within existing resources, to graduated countries for a period appropriate to the development situation of the country and for a maximum period of three years.

Mandate for the establishment of a working group on a smooth transition

In the Istanbul Declaration, States recognized that the graduation process of least developed countries should be coupled with an appropriate package of incentives and support measures so that the development process of the graduated country will not be jeopardized. In addition, they agreed to work on the development and implementation of smooth transition strategies for graduating and graduated least developed countries.[50]

Building on General Assembly resolution 59/209, it is stated in the Programme of Action that the measures and benefits associated with least developed country status need to be phased out consistent with their smooth transition strategy, taking into account each country's particular development situation.[51] It is also stated that it is crucial for graduating countries to take the lead in the development of smooth transition strategies with the support of their development and trading partners. Development and trading partners, including the United Nations system, should continue to support the implementation of the transition strategy and avoid any abrupt reductions in financial and technical assistance and should consider extending trade preferences to the graduated country, on a bilateral basis.[52] The Assembly was invited to establish an ad hoc working group to further study and strengthen the smooth transition process.[53]

Objectives of the Ad Hoc Working Group

The general objective of the Ad Hoc Working Group is to strengthen the smooth transition process and to facilitate the widest consensus possible between graduating or graduated countries and their development partners, thus providing additional reassurance to least developed countries that they will not fall behind in their development.

In order to prepare a smooth transition strategy, an analysis of what measures will no longer be available and what the likely impact of this will be needs to be carried out in a country-specific manner. The Working Group shall look at the process that leads to a smooth transition for graduating countries in general and make recommendations on how all stakeholders can contribute to making the process more effective and to providing additional incentives for graduation. The Working Group shall also make recommendations on how to support graduating countries' efforts to effectively tap into the benefits associated with their new status.

The Working Group should make proposals on how a graduated country could retain special support measures for a longer period of time in order to avoid the negative impact of an abrupt end to the preferential treatment accorded to it as a least developed country. Most importantly, any such proposals should result in a smooth transition for graduating countries, since the risk that international assistance would drop significantly after graduation would be reduced.

Specific objectives of the deliberations of the Working Group shall be:

(*a*) To review the existing smooth transition strategy, including the concessions and measures that have been granted by development partners to graduating or graduated countries;

(*b*) To analyse, by graduating country, the potential impact of losing access to specific support measures, in terms of both benefits and obligations;

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[50] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9–13 May 2011* (A/CONF.219/7), chap. I, para. 14.

[51] Ibid., chap. II, sect. VI, para. 141.

[52] Ibid., para. 142.

[53] Ibid., para. 143.

(*c*) To assess the challenges faced by least developed countries and development partners, including international organizations, in negotiating and implementing smooth transition measures and determining the length of the transition period;

(*d*) To provide recommendations on how the incentives provided by smooth transition strategies and their implementation could be improved;

(*e*) To make specific recommendations on the continuation by all development partners of benefits for graduating countries in some critical areas and on phasing out such benefits in a gradual and structured manner, consistent with each country's development situation and needs.

Organization

The Working Group is established by the General Assembly under the auspices of the President of the Assembly, who shall designate two co-facilitators, one from a least developed country and one from a development partner. The core of the Working Group shall consist of representatives of least developed countries and key development partners, as well as other developing and key countries, and aim for equitable geographical balance. In view of the open-ended nature of the Working Group, other interested Member States may also participate in the deliberations of the Working Group and make substantive contributions. The active participation of countries that graduated recently or that have been recommended for graduation will be crucial for the negotiation of smooth transition strategies.

The Working Group shall hold an organizational meeting to discuss its work programme and as many meetings as are deemed necessary by the co-facilitators. The Working Group shall draw on a number of experts, including from the United Nations system, the World Trade Organization and other financial and development institutions, as well as academia. These experts shall be invited to make presentations for the benefit of the members of the Working Group. The Working Group shall also draw on relevant documents, for example reports prepared by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Committee for Development Policy and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. The Working Group shall submit recommendations on improving the smooth transition process to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session with a view to the adoption of a new resolution on the issue.

66/557. Agenda items remaining for consideration by the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session

At its 93rd plenary meeting, on 24 December 2011, the General Assembly, apart from organizational matters and items that may have to be considered by operation of the rules of procedure of the Assembly, decided that the following agenda items remained for consideration during its sixty-sixth session:

Item 9. Report of the Economic and Social Council

Item 10. Implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the Political Declarations on HIV/AIDS

Item 11. Sport for peace and development:

(*a*) Building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic ideal

Item 12. Global road safety crisis

Item 13. 2001–2010: Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Particularly in Africa

Item 14. Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields

Item 15. Culture of peace

Item 19. Sustainable development:

(*a*) Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development

Item 22. Groups of countries in special situations:

(*a*) Follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

Item 30. Report of the Security Council

Item 31. Report of the Peacebuilding Commission

Item 32. Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies

Item 33. The role of diamonds in fuelling conflict

Item 34. Prevention of armed conflict:

(*a*) Strengthening the role of mediation in the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution

Item 35. Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

Item 36. The situation in the Middle East

Item 37. Question of Palestine

Item 39. The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan

Item 40. Question of the Comorian island of Mayotte

Item 42. The situation in Central America: progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development

Item 43. Question of Cyprus

Item 44. Armed aggression against the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Item 45. Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)

Item 46. The situation of democracy and human rights in Haiti

Item 47. Armed Israeli aggression against the Iraqi nuclear installations and its grave consequences for the established international system concerning the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and international peace and security

Item 48. Consequences of the Iraqi occupation of and aggression against Kuwait

Item 63. New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support:

(*a*) New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support

(*b*) Causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa

Item 70. Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance:

(*a*) Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations

(*b*) Assistance to the Palestinian people

(*c*) Special economic assistance to individual countries or regions

Item 72. Report of the International Court of Justice

Item 75. Report of the International Criminal Court

Item 76. Oceans and the law of the sea:

(*a*) Oceans and the law of the sea

Item 110. Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization

Item 111. Report of the Secretary-General on the Peacebuilding Fund

Item 113. Elections to fill vacancies in principal organs:

(*c*) Election of five members of the International Court of Justice

Item 114. Elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other elections:

(*a*) Election of twenty members of the Committee for Programme and Coordination

(*c*) Election of twenty-nine members of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme

Item 115. Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments:

(*f*) Appointment of members of the Committee on Conferences

(*g*) Appointment of members of the Joint Inspection Unit

(*h*) Approval of the appointment of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

(*i*) Appointment of the judges of the United Nations Dispute Tribunal

(*j*) Appointment of the judges of the United Nations Appeals Tribunal

Item 116. Admission of new Members to the United Nations

Item 117. Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

Item 118. The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy

Item 119. Follow-up to the commemoration of the two-hundredth anniversary of the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade

Item 120. Implementation of the resolutions of the United Nations

Item 121. Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly

Item 122. Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and related matters

Item 123. Strengthening of the United Nations system:

(*a*) Strengthening of the United Nations system

(*b*) Central role of the United Nations system in global governance

Item 124. United Nations reform: measures and proposals

Item 125. Follow-up to the recommendations on administrative management and internal oversight of the Independent Inquiry Committee into the United Nations Oil-for-Food Programme

Item 127. International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994

Item 128. International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991

Item 129. International residual mechanism for criminal tribunals

Item 130. Interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union

Item 131. Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors:

(*a*) United Nations peacekeeping operations

(*b*) Voluntary funds administered by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

(*c*) Capital master plan

Item 132. Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations

Item 133. Programme budget for the biennium 2010–2011

Item 134. Programme budget for the biennium 2012–2013

Item 135. Programme planning

Item 136. Improving the financial situation of the United Nations

Item 137. Pattern of conferences

Item 138. Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations

Item 139. Human resources management

Item 140. Joint Inspection Unit

Item 141. United Nations common system

Item 142. Report on the activities of the Office of Internal Oversight Services

Item 143. Administration of justice at the United Nations

Item 144. Financing of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994

Item 145. Financing of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991

Item 146. Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations

Item 147. Financing of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei

Item 148. Financing of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad

Item 149. Financing of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire

Item 150. Financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus

Item 151. Financing of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Item 152. Financing of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Item 153. Financing of the United Nations Mission in East Timor

Item 154. Financing of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste

Item 155. Financing of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea

Item 156. Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia

Item 157. Financing of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti

Item 158. Financing of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo

Item 159. Financing of the United Nations Mission in Liberia

Item 160. Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East:

(*a*) United Nations Disengagement Observer Force

(*b*) United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon

Item 161. Financing of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan

Item 162. Financing of the United Nations Mission in the Sudan

Item 163. Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara

Item 164. Financing of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur

Item 165. Financing of the activities arising from Security Council resolution 1863 (2009)

2. *Decisions adopted on the reports of the First Committee*

66/513. Verification in all its aspects, including the role of the United Nations in the field of verification

At its 71st plenary meeting, on 2 December 2011, the General Assembly took note of the report of the First Committee.[54]

66/514. Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security

At its 71st plenary meeting, on 2 December 2011, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee,[55] decided to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-eighth session the item entitled "Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security".

66/515. Role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament

At its 71st plenary meeting, on 2 December 2011, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee,[56] decided to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session the item entitled "Role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament".

[54] A/66/405.

[55] A/66/406, para. 7.

[56] A/66/411, para. 7.

66/516. Missiles

At its 71st plenary meeting, on 2 December 2011, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee,[57] recalling its resolutions 54/54 F of 1 December 1999, 55/33 A of 20 November 2000, 56/24 B of 29 November 2001, 57/71 of 22 November 2002, 58/37 of 8 December 2003, 59/67 of 3 December 2004, 61/59 of 6 December 2006 and 63/55 of 2 December 2008 and its decisions 60/515 of 8 December 2005, 62/514 of 5 December 2007 and 65/517 of 8 December 2010, decided to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session the item entitled "Missiles".

66/517. Transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities

At its 71st plenary meeting, on 2 December 2011, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee,[57] recalling its resolution 65/68 of 8 December 2010 and previous resolutions on this matter, decided to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-eighth session the item entitled "Transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities".

66/518. The arms trade treaty

At its 71st plenary meeting, on 2 December 2011, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee,[57] recalling its resolution 64/48 of 2 December 2009, by a recorded vote of 166 to none, with 13 abstentions,[58] decided to hold, within existing resources, the final session of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty from 13 to 17 February 2012 in New York to conclude the substantive work of the Preparatory Committee and decide on all relevant procedural matters, pursuant to paragraph 8 of the above-mentioned resolution.

66/519. Proposed programme of work and timetable of the First Committee for 2012

At its 71st plenary meeting, on 2 December 2011, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee,[59] approved the proposed programme of work and

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[57] A/66/412, para. 71.

[58] The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: None

Abstaining: Bahrain, Egypt, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kuwait, Libya, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, United Arab Emirates, Yemen.

[59] A/66/421, para. 5.

timetable of the Committee for 2012, as contained in the annex to the report of the First Committee.[60]

66/520. Programme planning (First Committee)

At its 71st plenary meeting, on 2 December 2011, the General Assembly took note of the report of the First Committee.[61]

3. *Decisions adopted on the reports of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)*

66/521. Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects

At its 81st plenary meeting, on 9 December 2011, the General Assembly took note of the report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee).[62]

66/522. Question of Gibraltar

At its 81st plenary meeting, on 9 December 2011, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee),[63] recalling its decision 65/521 of 10 December 2010 and the statements agreed to by the Governments of Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in Brussels, on 27 November 1984,[64] and in Madrid, on 27 October 2004, and noting the establishment, pursuant to the latter, of the tripartite Forum for Dialogue on Gibraltar, separate from the Brussels Process, under the statement made jointly by the Governments of Spain, the United Kingdom and Gibraltar on 16 December 2004:

(*a*) Urged both Governments, while listening to the interests and aspirations of Gibraltar, to reach, in the spirit of the statement of 27 November 1984, a definitive solution to the question of Gibraltar, in the light of relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and applicable principles, and in the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations;

(*b*) Welcomed the continuing commitment to the trilateral Forum for Dialogue, including in the six additional areas of cooperation announced in 2009.

66/523. Proposed programme of work and timetable of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) for the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly

At its 81st plenary meeting, on 9 December 2011, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee),[65] approved the proposed programme of work and timetable of the Committee for the sixty-seventh session of the Assembly, as contained in the annex to the report of the Committee.[66]

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[60] A/66/421.

[61] A/66/422.

[62] A/66/428.

[63] A/66/434, para. 28.

[64] A/39/732, annex.

[65] A/66/435, para. 5.

[66] A/66/435.

66/524. Programme planning (Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee))

At its 81st plenary meeting, on 9 December 2011, the General Assembly took note of the report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee).[67]

4. *Decisions adopted on the reports of the Second Committee*

66/542. Macroeconomic policy questions

At its 91st plenary meeting, on 22 December 2011, the General Assembly took note of the report of the Second Committee.[68]

66/543. Contribution of the ninth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

At its 91st plenary meeting, on 22 December 2011, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee,[69] recalling Economic and Social Council decision 2011/248 of 27 July 2011, decided to endorse the ministerial declaration adopted at the high-level segment of the ninth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests on the occasion of the launch of the International Year of Forests[70] and to transmit it as a contribution of the Forum to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012.

66/544. Arrangements for accreditation and participation in the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and its preparatory process of relevant non-governmental organizations and other major groups

At its 91st plenary meeting, on 22 December 2011, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee,[71] decided on the following arrangements for accreditation and participation in the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and its preparatory process of relevant non-governmental organizations and other major groups:

1. The major groups that are currently in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council as non-governmental organizations (including those on the Roster through the list of the Commission on Sustainable Development), as well as those that were accredited to the World Summit on Sustainable Development, must inform the secretariat and register to participate in the Conference. Accredited non-governmental organizations need not register for each preparatory committee meeting separately.

2. Those non-governmental organizations and other major groups currently not in consultative status but wishing to attend and contribute to the Conference may apply to the secretariat for that purpose. The application requires the submission of the following information:

(*a*) Name of the organization and pertinent contact information, including address and main contact;

(*b*) Purpose of the organization;

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[67] A/66/436.

[68] A/66/438.

[69] See A/66/440/Add.1, para. 17.

[70] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2011, Supplement No. 22* (E/2011/42), chap. I, sect. A, draft decision I.

[71] See A/66/440/Add.1, para. 17.

(*c*) Programmes and activities of the organization in areas relevant to the subject of the Conference indicating in which country or countries they are carried out;

(*d*) Confirmation of the activities of the organization at the national, regional or international level;

(*e*) Copies of annual or other reports of the organization, with financial statements and a list of financial sources and contributions, including governmental contributions;

(*f*) A list of the members of the governing body of the organization and their countries of nationality (for international organizations);

(*g*) A description of the membership of the organization, indicating the total number of members, the names of organizations that are members and their geographical distribution;

(*h*) A copy of the constitution and/or by-laws of the organization;

(*i*) A completed pre-registration form prepared by the Conference secretariat.

3. The deadline for submitting accreditation applications is four months before the start of the Conference. Applications should be submitted to the secretariat. The secretariat, with support from the United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service and other relevant United Nations entities, as appropriate, will review the relevance of the work of the applicants on the basis of their background and involvement in sustainable development issues, particularly in the process of follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development. If the evaluation shows, on the basis of the information provided, that the applicant organization is competent and its activities are relevant to the work of the Conference, the secretariat will make recommendations to the General Assembly for its decision on the accreditation of those non-governmental organizations and other major groups. In cases where such recommendation is not made, the secretariat will make available to the Assembly the reasons for not doing so and will submit its recommendations at the same time.

66/545. Groups of countries in special situations

At its 91st plenary meeting, on 22 December 2011, the General Assembly took note of the report of the Second Committee.[72]

66/546. Report of the Secretary-General on the ten-year appraisal and review of the implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001–2010

At its 91st plenary meeting, on 22 December 2011, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee,[73] took note of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Ten-year appraisal and review of the implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001–2010".[74]

66/547. Eradication of poverty and other development issues

At its 91st plenary meeting, on 22 December 2011, the General Assembly took note of the report of the Second Committee.[75]

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[72] A/66/443.

[73] A/66/443/Add.1, para. 11.

[74] A/66/66-E/2011/78.

[75] A/66/444.

66/548. Operational activities for development

At its 91st plenary meeting, on 22 December 2011, the General Assembly took note of the report of the Second Committee.[76]

66/549. Pérez-Guerrero Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation

At its 91st plenary meeting, on 22 December 2011, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee,[77] recalling its resolution 38/201 of 20 December 1983, its decision 41/457 of 8 December 1986 and its resolution 64/222 of 21 December 2009, in which it endorsed the Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, decided to rename the Pérez-Guerrero Trust Fund for Economic and Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries the "Pérez-Guerrero Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation".

66/550. United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation

At its 91st plenary meeting, on 22 December 2011, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee,[77] recalling its resolution 58/220 of 23 December 2003, decided that, beginning in 2012, the observance of the United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation would be changed from 19 December to 12 September, to mark the day in 1978 when the United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries adopted the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries.[78]

66/551. Programme of work of the Second Committee for the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly

At its 91st plenary meeting, on 22 December 2011, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee,[79] approved the programme of work of the Committee for the sixty-seventh session of the Assembly as set out below:

Item 1. Information and communications technologies for development

Item 2. Macroeconomic policy questions:

(*a*) International trade and development

(*b*) International financial system and development

(*c*) External debt sustainability and development

Item 3. Follow-up to and implementation of the outcome of the 2002 International Conference on Financing for Development and the 2008 Review Conference

Item 4. Sustainable development:

(*a*) Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development

(*b*) Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

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[76] A/66/445.

[77] See A/66/445/Add.2, para. 19.

[78] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, Buenos Aires, 30 August–12 September 1978* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.78.II.A.11 and corrigendum), chap. I.

[79] A/66/450, para. 8.

(*c*) International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

(*d*) Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind

(*e*) Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

(*f*) Convention on Biological Diversity

(*g*) Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twelfth special session

(*h*) Harmony with Nature

(*i*) Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy

Item 5. Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

Item 6. Globalization and interdependence: international migration and development

Item 7. Groups of countries in special situations:

(*a*) Follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

(*b*) Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation

Item 8. Eradication of poverty and other development issues:

(*a*) Implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008–2017)

(*b*) Industrial development cooperation

Item 9. Operational activities for development:

(*a*) Quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system

(*b*) South-South cooperation

Item 10. Agriculture development and food security

Item 11. Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources

66/552. Programme planning (Second Committee)

At its 91st plenary meeting, on 22 December 2011, the General Assembly took note of the report of the Second Committee.[80]

[80] A/66/451.

5. *Decisions adopted on the reports of the Third Committee*

66/531. Reports considered by the General Assembly in connection with the question of social development

At its 89th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2011, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee,[81] took note of the reports of the Secretary-General entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly"[82] and "World social situation 2011: the global social crisis"[83] submitted under the item entitled "Social development".

66/532. Report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences

At its 89th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2011, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee,[84] took note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences[85] submitted under the item entitled "Advancement of women".

66/533. Report of the Secretary-General on the observance of the International Day for the Right to the Truth concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims

At its 89th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2011, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee,[86] took note of the report of the Secretary-General on the observance of the International Day for the Right to the Truth concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims.[87]

66/534. Reports considered by the General Assembly in connection with the question of the promotion and protection of the rights of children

At its 89th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2011, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee,[88] took note of the following reports submitted under the item entitled "Promotion and protection of the rights of children":

(*a*) Report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography;[89]

(*b*) Report of the Secretary-General on the girl child.[90]

66/535. Reports considered by the General Assembly in connection with the question of the elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

At its 89th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2011, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee,[91] took note of the report of the Committee on the

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[81] A/66/454 (Part II), para. 36.
[82] A/66/124.
[83] A/66/226.
[84] A/66/455 and Corr.1, para. 27.
[85] A/66/215.
[86] A/66/457, para. 21.
[87] A/66/335 and Add.1.
[88] A/66/458, para. 33.
[89] See A/66/228.
[90] A/66/257.
[91] A/66/460, para. 18.

Elimination of Racial Discrimination on its seventy-eighth and seventy-ninth sessions[92] and the report of the Secretary-General on global efforts for the total elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and the comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action.[93]

66/536. Report of the Secretary-General on the right of peoples to self-determination

At its 89th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2011, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee,[94] took note of the report of the Secretary-General on the right of peoples to self-determination.[95]

66/537. Documents considered by the General Assembly in connection with the question of the promotion and protection of human rights

At its 89th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2011, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee,[96] took note of the following documents submitted under the item entitled "Promotion and protection of human rights":

Under sub-item (*a*):

(*a*) Report of the Human Rights Committee on its 100th to 102nd sessions;[97]

(*b*) Report of the Committee against Torture on its forty-fifth and forty-sixth sessions;[98]

(*c*) Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery;[99]

(*d*) Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture;[100]

(*e*) Report of the Secretary-General on measures to improve further the effectiveness, harmonization and reform of the treaty body system;[101]

(*f*) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Chairs of the human rights treaty bodies on their twenty-third meeting;[102]

(*g*) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report on the Special Fund established by the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.[103]

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[92] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 18* (A/66/18).

[93] A/66/328.

[94] A/66/461, para. 20.

[95] A/66/172.

[96] A/66/462, para. 5.

[97] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 40* (A/66/40), vol. I and vol. II (Parts One and Two).

[98] Ibid., *Supplement No. 44* (A/66/44).

[99] A/66/217.

[100] A/66/276.

[101] A/66/344.

[102] A/66/175.

[103] A/66/259.

Under sub-item (*b*):

(*a*) Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance;[104]

(*b*) Report of the Secretary-General on the programme of activities for the International Year for People of African Descent;[105]

(*c*) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health;[106]

(*d*) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the note by the Secretariat providing an overview of the activities carried out by the outgoing Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants;[107]

(*e*) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights;[108]

(*f*) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to education;[109]

(*g*) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living and on the right to non-discrimination in this context;[110]

(*h*) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Independent Expert on the effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights;[111]

(*i*) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children;[112]

(*j*) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons;[113]

(*k*) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers;[114]

(*l*) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression;[115]

(*m*) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions.[116]

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[104] A/66/284.
[105] A/66/342 and Add.1.
[106] A/66/254.
[107] A/66/264.
[108] A/66/265.
[109] A/66/269.
[110] A/66/270.
[111] A/66/271.
[112] A/66/283.
[113] A/66/285.
[114] A/66/289.
[115] A/66/290.
[116] A/66/330.

Under sub-item (*c*):

(*a*) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967;[117]

(*b*) Note by the Secretary-General on the reports of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and on the report of the independent international commission of inquiry on the situation of human rights in Côte d'Ivoire.[118]

Under sub-item (*d*):

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.[119]

66/538. Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action

At its 89th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2011, the General Assembly took note of the report of the Third Committee.[120]

66/539. Documents considered by the General Assembly in connection with the question of crime prevention and criminal justice

At its 89th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2011, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee,[121] took note of the following documents submitted under the item entitled "Crime prevention and criminal justice":

(*a*) Report of the Secretary-General on follow-up to the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice;[122]

(*b*) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime on its fifth session.[123]

66/540. Programme of work of the Third Committee for the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly

At its 89th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2011, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee,[124] approved the programme of work of the Committee for the sixty-seventh session as set out below:

Item 1. Social development:

(*a*) Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly

(*b*) Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family

(*c*) Follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: Second World Assembly on Ageing

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[117] A/66/358.

[118] A/66/518.

[119] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 36* (A/66/36).

[120] A/66/462/Add.4.

[121] A/66/463, para. 26.

[122] A/66/91.

[123] A/66/92.

[124] A/66/465, para. 6.

Item 2. Crime prevention and criminal justice

Item 3. International drug control

Item 4. Advancement of women:

(*a*) Advancement of women

(*b*) Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly

Item 5. Promotion and protection of the rights of children:

(*a*) Promotion and protection of the rights of children

(*b*) Follow-up to the outcome of the special session on children

Item 6. Rights of indigenous peoples:

(*a*) Rights of indigenous peoples

(*b*) Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

Item 7. Promotion and protection of human rights:

(*a*) Implementation of human rights instruments

(*b*) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

(*c*) Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives

(*d*) Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action

Item 8. Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance:

(*a*) Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

(*b*) Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

Item 9. Right of peoples to self-determination

Item 10. Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions

Item 11. Report of the Human Rights Council

Item 12. Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly

66/541. Programme planning (Third Committee)

At its 89th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2011, the General Assembly took note of the report of the Third Committee.[125]

[125] A/66/466.

6. *Decisions adopted on the reports of the Fifth Committee*

66/554. United Nations Office for Partnerships

At its 93rd plenary meeting, on 24 December 2011, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee,[126] took note of the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Office for Partnerships.[127]

66/555. Capital master plan

At its 93rd plenary meeting, on 24 December 2011, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee,[128] authorized the continued utilization in 2012 of the unspent balance of the funding for associated costs approved in 2011 to allow the Secretary-General to continue the activities and projects planned for 2012, and decided to consider, at the first part of its resumed sixty-sixth session, the report of the Secretary-General on proposals for financing associated costs required for 2012 from within the approved budget for the capital master plan.[129]

66/556. Questions deferred for future consideration

At its 93rd plenary meeting, on 24 December 2011, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee:[130]

Section A

Decided to defer until the first part of its resumed sixty-sixth session consideration of the following documents:

Item 134
Programme budget for the biennium 2012–2013

Report of the Board of Auditors on the capital master plan for the year ended 31 December 2010[131]

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors contained in its report on the capital master plan for the year ended 31 December 2010[132]

Ninth annual progress report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the capital master plan and report of the Secretary-General on the proposals for financing associated costs for 2012 from within the approved budget for the capital master plan[133]

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the capital master plan[134]

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[126] A/66/636, para. 8.

[127] A/66/188.

[128] A/66/637, para. 45.

[129] A/66/527/Add.1.

[130] A/66/638, para. 5.

[131] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 5*, vol. V (A/66/5 (Vol.V)).

[132] A/66/324.

[133] A/66/527 and Add.1.

[134] A/66/7/Add.11.

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the audit of capital master plan procurement and contract management, including change orders[135]

Report of the Secretary-General on the feasibility study on the United Nations Headquarters accommodation needs 2014–2034[136]

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the feasibility study on the United Nations Headquarters accommodation needs 2014–2034[137]

Report of the Secretary-General on the financing of unforeseen and extraordinary expenses arising from resolutions and decisions of the Human Rights Council[138]

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the financing of unforeseen and extraordinary expenses arising from resolutions and decisions of the Human Rights Council[139]

Report of the Secretary-General on limited budgetary discretion[140]

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on limited budgetary discretion[141]

Section B

Decided to defer until the main part of its sixty-seventh session consideration of the following documents:

Item 134
Programme budget for the biennium 2012–2013

Report of the Secretary-General on the review of arrangements for funding and backstopping special political missions[142]

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the review of arrangements for funding and backstopping special political missions[143]

7. *Decisions adopted on the reports of the Sixth Committee*

66/525. Provisional programme of work of the Sixth Committee for the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly

At its 82nd plenary meeting, on 9 December 2011, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Sixth Committee,[144] noted that the Sixth Committee had decided to adopt the following provisional programme of work for the sixty-seventh session of the Assembly, as proposed by the Bureau:

[135] A/66/179.
[136] A/66/349.
[137] A/66/7/Add.3, sect. V.
[138] A/66/558 and Corr.1.
[139] A/66/7/Add.16.
[140] A/66/570.
[141] A/66/7/Add.18.
[142] A/66/340.
[143] A/66/7/Add.21.
[144] A/66/479, para. 7.

Provisional programme of work

8 October	Organization of work of the Sixth Committee
8 and 9 October	Measures to eliminate international terrorism
10 October	The rule of law at the national and international levels
11 October	Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization
12 October	Criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission
15 October	Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its forty-fifth session
15 and 16 October	Administration of justice at the United Nations
17 and 18 October	The scope and application of universal jurisdiction
22 October	Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts
	Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives
24 October	United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law
29 October–7 November	Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its sixty-third[145] and sixty-fourth sessions
16 November	Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country
	Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly
	Programme planning
	Election of the officers of the Main Committees
19 October and 7 November	Reserved

66/526. Programme planning (Sixth Committee)

At its 82nd plenary meeting, on 9 December 2011, the General Assembly took note of the report of the Sixth Committee.[146]

66/527. Observer status for the Cooperation Council of Turkic-speaking States in the General Assembly

At its 82nd plenary meeting, on 9 December 2011, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Sixth Committee,[147] decided to defer a decision on the request for observer status for the Cooperation Council of Turkic-speaking States in the Assembly to the sixty-seventh session of the Assembly.

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[145] Chapter on reservations to treaties.
[146] A/66/480.
[147] A/66/483, para. 8.

66/528. Observer status for United Cities and Local Governments in the General Assembly

At its 82nd plenary meeting, on 9 December 2011, the General Assembly took note of the report of the Sixth Committee.[148]

66/529. Observer status for the Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic-speaking Countries in the General Assembly

At its 82nd plenary meeting, on 9 December 2011, the General Assembly took note of the report of the Sixth Committee.[149]

66/530. Observer status for the International Conference of Asian Political Parties in the General Assembly

At its 82nd plenary meeting, on 9 December 2011, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Sixth Committee,[150] decided to defer a decision on the request for observer status for the International Conference of Asian Political Parties in the Assembly to the sixty-seventh session of the Assembly.

[148] A/66/487.

[149] A/66/489.

[150] A/66/490, para. 8.

Annex

Checklist of decisions

Decision number	*Title*	*Item*	*Plenary meeting*	*Date of adoption*	*Page*
66/401.	Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee	3 (*a*)	1st	13 September 2011	4
66/402.	Election of five non-permanent members of the Security Council	113 (*a*)	37th 40th	21 October 2011 24 October 2011	4
66/403.	Election of eighteen members of the Economic and Social Council	113 (*b*)	39th	24 October 2011	4
66/404.	Election of five members of the International Court of Justice	113 (*c*)	53rd 84th	10 November 2011 13 December 2011	5
66/405.	Appointment of members of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions	115 (*a*)	58th	11 November 2011	5
66/406.	Appointment of members of the Committee on Contributions	115 (*b*)	58th	11 November 2011	6
66/407.	Confirmation of the appointment of members of the Investments Committee	115 (*c*)	58th	11 November 2011	6
66/408.	Appointment of a member of the Board of Auditors	115 (*d*)	58th	11 November 2011	7
66/409.	Appointment of members of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee	115 (*e*)	58th	11 November 2011	7
66/410.	Appointment of members and alternate members of the United Nations Staff Pension Committee	115 (*k*)	58th	11 November 2011	8
66/411.	Election of twenty members of the Committee for Programme and Coordination	114 (*a*)	59th	17 November 2011	8
66/412.	Election of twenty-nine members of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme	114 (*c*)	59th 83rd	17 November 2011 12 December 2011	8
66/413.	Election of the members of the International Law Commission	114 (*b*)	59th	17 November 2011	9
66/414.	Appointment of members of the Committee on Conferences	115 (*f*)	63rd 83rd	22 November 2011 12 December 2011	10
66/415.	Election of two members of the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission	114 (*d*)	83rd	12 December 2011	11
66/416.	Election of judges of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals	129	87th	20 December 2011	11
66/417.	Appointment of members of the Joint Inspection Unit	115 (*g*)	92nd	23 December 2011	12
66/501.	Meetings of subsidiary organs during the main part of the sixty-sixth session	7	1st	13 September 2011	13
66/502.	Organization of the sixty-sixth session	7	2nd 52nd 63rd 72nd 82nd 83rd 91st	16 September 2011 9 November 2011 22 November 2011 2 December 2011 9 December 2011 12 December 2011 22 December 2011	13

Decision number	*Title*	*Item*	*Plenary meeting*	*Date of adoption*	*Page*
66/503.	Adoption of the agenda and allocation of agenda items	7	2nd 35th 52nd 91st	16 September 2011 17 October 2011 9 November 2011 22 December 2011	14
66/504.	High-level meeting of the General Assembly to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action	67 (*b*)	14th	22 September 2011	15
66/505.	Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization	110	31st	4 October 2011	15
66/506.	Documentation for the election of the members of the International Law Commission	114 (*b*)	35th	17 October 2011	15
66/507.	Report of the International Court of Justice	72	43rd	26 October 2011	15
66/508.	Plenary meeting of the General Assembly devoted to the launch of the International Year of Cooperatives 2012	27 (*b*)	45th	31 October 2011	15
66/509.	Notification by the Secretary-General under Article 12, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations	112	50th	8 November 2011	15
66/510.	Report of the Security Council	30	50th	8 November 2011	15
66/511.	Report of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994	73	58th	11 November 2011	16
66/512.	Report of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991	74	58th	11 November 2011	16
66/513.	Verification in all its aspects, including the role of the United Nations in the field of verification	91	71st	2 December 2011	26
66/514.	Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security	92	71st	2 December 2011	26
66/515.	Role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament	97	71st	2 December 2011	26
66/516.	Missiles	98 (*y*)	71st	2 December 2011	27
66/517.	Transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities	98 (*v*)	71st	2 December 2011	27
66/518.	The arms trade treaty	98 (*e*)	71st	2 December 2011	27
66/519.	Proposed programme of work and timetable of the First Committee for 2012	121	71st	2 December 2011	27
66/520.	Programme planning (First Committee)	135	71st	2 December 2011	28
66/521.	Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects	54	81st	9 December 2011	28

Decision number	*Title*	*Item*	*Plenary meeting*	*Date of adoption*	*Page*
66/522.	Question of Gibraltar	60	81st	9 December 2011	28
66/523.	Proposed programme of work and timetable of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) for the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly	121	81st	9 December 2011	28
66/524.	Programme planning (Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee))	135	81st	9 December 2011	29
66/525.	Provisional programme of work of the Sixth Committee for the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly	121	82nd	9 December 2011	39
66/526.	Programme planning (Sixth Committee)	135	82nd	9 December 2011	40
66/527.	Observer status for the Cooperation Council of Turkic-speaking States in the General Assembly	167	82nd	9 December 2011	40
66/528.	Observer status for United Cities and Local Governments in the General Assembly	171	82nd	9 December 2011	41
66/529.	Observer status for the Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic-speaking Countries in the General Assembly	173	82nd	9 December 2011	41
66/530.	Observer status for the International Conference of Asian Political Parties in the General Assembly	174	82nd	9 December 2011	41
66/531.	Reports considered by the General Assembly in connection with the question of social development	27	89th	19 December 2011	33
66/532.	Report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences	28	89th	19 December 2011	33
66/533.	Report of the Secretary-General on the observance of the International Day for the Right to the Truth concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims	64	89th	19 December 2011	33
66/534.	Reports considered by the General Assembly in connection with the question of the promotion and protection of the rights of children	65	89th	19 December 2011	33
66/535.	Reports considered by the General Assembly in connection with the question of the elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance	67	89th	19 December 2011	33
66/536.	Report of the Secretary-General on the right of peoples to self determination	68	89th	19 December 2011	34
66/537.	Documents considered by the General Assembly in connection with the question of the promotion and protection of human rights	69	89th	19 December 2011	34
66/538.	Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action	69 (*d*)	89th	19 December 2011	36
66/539.	Documents considered by the General Assembly in connection with the question of crime prevention and criminal justice	107	89th	19 December 2011	36
66/540.	Programme of work of the Third Committee for the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly	121	89th	19 December 2011	36
66/541.	Programme planning (Third Committee)	135	89th	19 December 2011	37

Decision number	*Title*	*Item*	*Plenary meeting*	*Date of adoption*	*Page*
66/542.	Macroeconomic policy questions	17	91st	22 December 2011	29
66/543.	Contribution of the ninth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development	19 (*a*)	91st	22 December 2011	29
66/544.	Arrangements for accreditation and participation in the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and its preparatory process of relevant non-governmental organizations and other major groups	19 (*a*)	91st	22 December 2011	29
66/545.	Groups of countries in special situations	22	91st	22 December 2011	30
66/546.	Report of the Secretary-General on the ten-year appraisal and review of the implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001–2010	22 (*a*)	91st	22 December 2011	30
66/547.	Eradication of poverty and other development issues	23	91st	22 December 2011	30
66/548.	Operational activities for development	24	91st	22 December 2011	31
66/549.	Pérez-Guerrero Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation	24 (*b*)	91st	22 December 2011	31
66/550.	United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation	24 (*b*)	91st	22 December 2011	31
66/551.	Programme of work of the Second Committee for the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly	121	91st	22 December 2011	31
66/552.	Programme planning (Second Committee)	135	91st	22 December 2011	32
66/553.	Ad Hoc Working Group to further study and strengthen the smooth transition process for countries graduating from the least developed country category	22 (*a*)	91st	22 December 2011	16
66/554.	United Nations Office for Partnerships	133	93rd	24 December 2011	38
66/555.	Capital master plan	134	93rd	24 December 2011	38
66/556.	Questions deferred for future consideration	132	93rd	24 December 2011	38
66/557.	Agenda items remaining for consideration by the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session	7	93rd	24 December 2011	22

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